the country especially in the vulnerable areas of the land borders as also at the international airports has been geared up. Close co-ordination is being maintained with all the agencies concerned which operate in the border areas in the detection and prevention of smuggling. Sophisticated equipment like : X-ray Baggage Machines, Metal Detectors and night vision binoculars are being increasingly used. Administrative re-crganisatin has been undertaken to strengthen the anti-smuggling effort on the Indo-Pak border and the creation of two preventive sub-collectorates with Head Quarters at Jodhpur and Amritsar respectively has been sanctioned.

Amendment of the Central Sales Tax Act

*55. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the State Governments of the Northern Region for amending the Central Sales Tax Act so as to cover the Consignment tax also ;

(b) if so, what are the detail thereof ; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the Chief Ministers Conference held on 9th and 10th February, 1989, it was resolved by consensus that a separates bill for levy of consignment tax be introduced in the Parliament in the Monsoon Session this year.

Bomb blast at New Delhi Railway Station

*56. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently there was an incident of bomb blast at the New Delhi Railway Station resulting in some deaths and injuries ; if so, what are the details thereof ;

(b) whether it was the handiwork of Punjab terrorists and whether Government had any prior information about the possibility of such an incident ; if so, what preventive measures were taken by Government in this regard ;

(c) whether the culprits have since been apprehended ; if so, what are the details thereof ;

(d) what steps have been taken to gear up security measures at the New Delhi and other Railway Stations to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future ; and

(e) whether any *ex-gratia* payment has been made to the affected families?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (e) A powerful explosion took place at the New Delhi Railway Station on 12-6-1989. 10 persons were killed and 55 persons were injured. 3 persons viz. (i) Manjit Singh of New Delhi, (ii) Nishan Singh of Amritsar and (iii) Dalbir Singh of Amritsar involved in this case were apprehended. The case has also since been challaned by the Delhi Police. It is correct that it was the handiwork of Punjab Terrorists. However, no specific information about this incident was available. Ex-gratia payments were made to the concerned

families. Among the measures taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents in futute, are the following :

(i) Armed pickets are being deployed at vulnerable/stratgic points.

(ii) Intensive patrolling is being carried out.

(iii) Photos of terrorists are shown to the staff and they are briefed properly.

(iv) Literature is being distributed amongst the people to be vigilant. Announcements are being made from police vehicles and also over the TV/Radio and Press.

(v) Spotters are being deployed at vulnerable points.

(vi) Regular checking of suspected persons/vehicles is being done.

(vii) Photos of known terrorists have been displayed at public places.

Allocation of Funds for Exploration of ground Water

*57. SHRI GOPALA RAO RAO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether ground water exploration has been given adequate priority in the Seventh Plan ;

(b) whether adequate funds have been provided for the sinking of tubewells and deployment of rigs in the Plan ; and

(c) if so, what is the break-up of allocations in this sector in the Central and State spheres under the Plan and the allocation during each year of the Plan for Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central assistance to States is given in the form of block loans and grants for the annual plan as a whole and is not tied to any particular sector of development. In the VII Plan, an overall provision of about Rs. 2,670 crores in the State Sector, and about Rs. 135 crores in the Central Sector has been made for the Minor Irrigation Sector, including ground water development. The Seventh Plan outlay for the Minor Irrigation Sector for Andhra Pradesh is Rs. 147.40 crores. Details of the year wise expenditure are given in the Statement (*See* below).

Central assistance is also given to the State under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for construction of minor irrigation works including tubewells, and for purchase of Digs on matching basis.

Statement

Year-wise break up of Plan expenditure (Rs. in Crores) in Minor Irrigation Sector in Andhra Pradesh.

Year	Outlay	Expenditure
1985-86 . .		31.12
1986-87 . .		31.67
1987-88 . .		23.95
1988-89 . .	31.00	34.00 (anticipated)
1989-90 . .	31.00	

Export of iron ore by the MMTC

*58. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the MMTC has been exporting iron ore to different countries;